

The association has a close relationship with the California State Association of Counties and is supportive of advocacy work to develop policies that benefit counties and citizens.

The County Engineers Association of California works on many issues toward improving the state of our water. Specific issues include wastewater, storm water, flood control infrastructure, in addition to matters regarding clean and safe drinking water.

Through much collaboration, the County Engineers Association of California strives to provide, create, and maintain infrastructure that aids in the health, safety, and general welfare for California.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the County Engineers Association of California for their 100 years of outstanding contributions to the community.

RECOGNIZING THE HEALTH WAGON

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I write in recognition of The Health Wagon, a nonprofit health clinic that works to provide mobile health services in Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, Lee, Scott, and Wise Counties as well as the City of Norton. Last year, The Health Wagon helped more than 11,000 patients receive health care valued at over \$1 million, and through partnerships The Health Wagon's Pharmacy Connect program provided patients with approximately \$1.2 million in pharmacy assistance.

For this and its important work with the annual Remote Area Medical event, its community health fairs and outreach programs, its women's health programs, its emphasis on education and prevention, its clinics including dental, eye, and specialty services, and more, I am grateful to The Health Wagon and its staff, supporters, and volunteers for serving the people of Southwest Virginia. There is no doubt that The Health Wagon's hard work and dedication has had an impact on countless lives.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,467,228,205,267.47. We've added \$6,840,351,156,354.39 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

SHANE ROBERT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Shane Robert for receiving the Young Professional of the Year award from the West Chamber serving Jefferson County.

The West Chamber Young Professionals engage and connect young professionals throughout Jefferson County. By building relationships with other local business leaders, West Chamber young professional members advance their careers and become leaders in the community.

Shane is a vital contributing member and leader of the West Chamber Young Professionals. He is instrumental in helping the Young Professionals grow over the past two years with particular emphasis on helping with their marketing, donating brochure designs and social media services.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Shane Robert for his well deserved honor from the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker on rollcall No. 91, I was not present due to unavoidable air travel delays. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

IN RECOGNITION OF DARWIN L. CURLS FOR HIS DEDICATED CA- REER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our own. On Friday, March 7, 2014, Mr. Darwin Lenard Curls is retiring from my office after serving the past nine years for the Fifth Congressional District as the Director of Community Affairs and dedicating nearly half-a-century of public service to our community.

Born on October 17, 1943, to a family of public servants, Darwin learned at an early age the importance of giving back to his community. His parents, Fred and Velma Curls raised Darwin and his five siblings to help those less fortunate. His father was a pioneer for civil and political rights in our community and was one of the original founders of Freedom Incorporated, an African-American political organization, based in Kansas City, Missouri. Darwin observed his father's efforts to better the community, such as with his fight against restrictive covenants in residential neighborhoods in our community. His brother,

Phil Curls, went on to become a State Senator and President of Freedom Inc. Along with Darwin's help, Freedom rose to be known as one of the most potent political organizations in the United States. Darwin remembers well his father's saying "make it happen", and took to heart those words by dedicating his life to making things happen. Make-no-mistake, through his career of action and advocacy in our great state of Missouri, Darwin has been the embodiment of the "Show me State".

As a young man, Darwin attended De La Salle Military Academy, before earning his Bachelor of Arts degree from Park College. He eventually found his calling when he landed a position with the Blue Hills Homes Corporation—a community development corporation focused on improving neighborhoods in the urban core thru creating quality housing opportunities. Darwin spent nearly 23 years with Blue Hills.

In 1994, Darwin chose to run for public office and was elected overwhelmingly for the Kansas City Missouri School Board. During a challenging time for the School District, Darwin brought much-needed, common sense approaches to ensure children were given the best opportunities to succeed. After retiring from the School Board, he accepted a Trustee position with the Kansas City Public School Retirement System where he served for 16 years to ensure the employees of the Kansas City School District were treated fairly thru their retirement.

In 1999, Darwin joined the Congressional staff of my predecessor, Representative Karen McCarthy. He served for five years, handling casework and outreach. After a brief stint with Swope Community Builders, I asked Darwin to join me shortly after my election. He started on February 1, 2005 as my Director of Community Affairs. In that capacity, Darwin has overseen the office's casework, helping constituents with issues dealing with the Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration, Housing and Urban Development, and much more. He has helped hundreds of individuals traverse the challenges of the federal bureaucracy, helping people to receive back payments, or keep their housing. He was always available to constituents, sometimes just lending a shoulder during their time in need. Equally valuable, he has been an integral part of our outreach efforts, regularly providing remarks at meetings and events on behalf of the office. Over the years, I have relied heavily on his insights and feedback about our community and their concerns, as he has always had his fingers on the pulse of our District.

Darwin has been married for forty-five years to his wife, Sandra, and they are blessed to have three amazing children and seven grandchildren. Their daughter, Shalonn "Kiki" Curls, is continuing the family tradition of public service as a State Senator.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing and honoring Mr. Darwin Curls for a lifetime of dedicated service to our community. While he embraces this next phase of life in retirement, I wish to thank him for his guiding counsel over the years. He has served as a role model to many in our office and in the African-American community. The lives of hundreds of constituents he has helped, our neighbors, community, and Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, have been enhanced because he chose to "make it happen."